



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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### **State Health Department Urges North Dakotans To Check for and Dispose of Recently Recalled Products**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Because of reports that recently recalled products still are being used by consumers, the North Dakota Department of Health is reminding people to check their shelves and cupboards for the following products that have been linked to illnesses in the United States.

#### **Canned Meat Products**

Canned meat products manufactured by Castleberry's Food Company in Augusta, Ga., recently were recalled after being linked to several confirmed cases of botulism. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a substantial number of households may still contain these recalled items. A list of recalled food products is available at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Recall\\_033\\_2007\\_expanded/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_033_2007_expanded/index.asp) or by calling Castleberry's at 800.203.4412 or 888.203.8446.

Consumers should take the following steps to dispose of containers of the products: (1) place the container in a sealable plastic bag; (2) place the sealed plastic bag containing the product inside two additional plastic bags and then tightly tape the bags closed; (3) place the sealed/taped plastic bags into a secure trash receptacle for non-recyclable trash. DO NOT discard any of the recalled products in a sink, garbage disposal or toilet. To prevent exposure to the contents of the cans, special care should be taken when handling and disposing of cans that show signs of swelling or leakage or that are opened.

Botulism is a rare but serious illness caused by a nerve toxin. Symptoms of botulism include double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, dry mouth and muscle weakness. The illness can cause paralysis, respiratory failure and death. Symptoms usually occur 18 to 36 hours after eating contaminated food.

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“Even though no cases of botulism have been reported in North Dakota, because of the serious nature of this disease, we want to make sure consumers are aware of the recall and properly dispose of any recalled product,” said Julie Goplin, an epidemiologist with the North Dakota Department of Health. “Retailers, food pantries and soup kitchens also should check their shelves for these recalled products.”

### **Contact Lens Solution**

A second recently recalled product that has been linked to illness in people is Advanced Medical Optics Complete® MoisturePlus™ contact lens solution. The product was voluntarily recalled by the company in May after cases of a rare but serious eye infection were linked to the contact solution. Nationwide, multiple cases of this eye infection have been reported. In addition, reports indicate that many contact wearers still have and use the recalled product.

Symptoms of the eye infection linked to the recalled contact solution are similar to those of other more common eye infections and may include eye pain or redness, blurred vision, light sensitivity, sensation of something in the eye, or excessive tearing. Consumers who may still have this contact lens solution should discard both opened and unopened bottles and replace their lenses and storage containers. Information about this recall is available at [www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/amo05\\_07.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/amo05_07.html) or by calling Advanced Medical Optics at 888.899.9183 or 800.347.5005.

“These recalled products have been linked to very serious illnesses,” Goplin said. “It’s important for everyone to look for these products in their homes and businesses, to properly discard any of the recalled products, and to tell family and friends to be alert to these products, as well.”

For more information, contact Julie Goplin, North Dakota Department of Health, at 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378.

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